the production of Ammonia/Urea, but due to the past performance of the coal based units at Ramagundam & Talcher, the high-level of investment required and the poor quality of Indian coal, no effort has been made for setting up of additional fertilizer capacity based on coal as feedstock. However, in view of the technological development made over the years for coal gasification, a private sector company has evinced interest in setting up a coal based fertilizer unit. A comprehensive rehabilitation proposal of Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited on consideration of unitwise viability including Ramagudnam and Talcher unit is presently under consideration with the Government of India.

Change of technology in Fertilizer Industry

1869. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to change the existing technology in fertilizer industry in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government had constituted any expert Committe to suggest suitable technology;

(c) by when this Committee has been asked to submit its report to Government;

(d) whether Government have received the Committee's Report; and

(e) if so, the recommendations made by the Committe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) In the fertilizer industry technological upgradation is a continuing process by way of renovation and modernisation of the existing fertilizer plants. To encourage such measures, import of equipment and supplies required for the scheme is allowed at nominal basic customs duty and also extended deemed export benefits, by the Government.

(b) Government has not constituted any expert committee to suggest a suitable technology for manufacture of fertilizers.

(c) to (e) Question does not arise.

Requirement of fertilizer products

1870. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a review of the estimated fertilizer products requirement in the country by 2000 A.D. has taken place;

(b) what proportion of this requirement is intended to be met by private sector agencies; and

(c) the capital needed to be deployed by the private sector to meet the target and the sources from which funds are expected to be made available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) Report of the Working Group on Fertilizers for the 9th Five Year Plan, submitted to the Planning Commission has projected the demand of major fertilizer products for 1999-2000 as follows:

	(Lakh MT)
Urea	225.00
DAP	50.00
SSP	37.80
MOP	18.40

(b) Proportion of the requirement of major fertiliser products proposed to be met by produciton from private sector is given below:

Urea	41%
DAP	47%
SSP	86%

Muriate of potash is totally imported.

(c) Two Fertilizer Proejcts viz. Expansion project of Chambal Fertilizers